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Innovate
Public Schools

Family Guide to the LAUSD Strategic Plan

A tool for families to engage as
partners to help LAUSD students thrive





Dear LAUSD Families,

This guide was created by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) parents and families who recognize the crucial role parents play in shaping a child's education. We believe that together, we can empower our children to reach their full potential.

Parent leaders have been working for years to improve education for all students in Los Angeles. Innovate Public Schools has supported our mission by helping us build our collective power as parents who want to engage as partners. During a meeting organized by Innovate parent leaders in November 2022, they asked Los Angeles Unified to support parents in creating a guide that would help families understand what is outlined in the 2022-26 Strategic Plan. Our collective effort has led to the creation of this Family Guide, a tool for families to engage as partners to help LAUSD students thrive.

Our children need us to model our leadership so they, too, may advocate for themselves and others. They need our relentless commitment to push them forward through adversity. Mostly, they need our love to feel safe and supported no matter what happens. From you, our families, we need your willpower to do what you can and from where you are so that we can improve education for all students in Los Angeles.

That's what this guide is all about – giving you the tools, knowledge, and courage to join our mission as parent leaders. It all starts at the school level — in powerful conversations among parents, teachers, and principal.

In a country where there are so many examples of how school systems are content to give Black, Latinx, and low-income children the bare minimum, we are proud and excited that we have such an ambitious and powerful Strategic Plan that, if implemented and monitored effectively, will ensure ALL students in LAUSD thrive.

We are at a defining moment in education. Only three out of 10 LAUSD third graders can read proficiently. The United States Supreme Court, in its decisions around affirmative action, is attacking the progress in equity that has been paid for with so much struggle. We need to do everything we can to protect LAUSD's children and affirm their opportunities and lives.

Our goal with this family guide is for more and more parents to discover their leadership and become involved in decision making in their schools and district.

In the spirit of transformation,

Innovate Parent Leaders

In collaboration and support of LAUSD families,

Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho



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How to use this guide

What is the purpose of this guide?

The purpose of this guide is to ensure every LAUSD parent or guardian...

- is aware of the strategies and actions outlined in the Strategic Plan
- understands **what to look for** to ensure the Strategic Plan is being implemented in their school
- feels equipped and empowered to **engage in powerful conversations** with school and District leaders to ensure the goals this plan makes for students and families are realized

This guide describes tangible actions you should see happening at your child's school and includes questions you can ask school principals and District leaders to ensure schools and Regions are reaching goals outlined in the Strategic Plan.

1. Do your best to read the entire guide.
2. Identify what pillar you would like to focus on with your school principal (e.g., Academic Excellence).
3. Within that chosen pillar, identify the strategies you would like to focus on in your conversation with the school principal.
4. Read "What to look for" under the pillar and strategy you selected. Ask yourself if you see any of this happening at your child's school
5. Schedule a meeting with your school principal to discuss the pillar and strategy you identified.
6. Create a plan before your meeting. Use the questions in this guide to draft a list of questions you would like to ask the principal.
7. Personalize the questions for your specific students' needs (e.g., if you have an English learner, ask your principal how they are supporting English learners to reclassify).
8. Invite other parents to join you at the meeting.
9. Share this guide with other parents and community members. Have conversations with other parents about the questions in this guide and what you can do together to work with the principal to ensure progress.
10. Ask your school principal for a workshop on the Strategic Plan that can be implemented at your school.

WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?



Los Angeles Unified (LAUSD) is the second largest district in the country with over 400,000 students. The pandemic and long-standing inequities continue to adversely impact LAUSD students. Only four out of 10 LAUSD students are on grade level in English and only three out of 10 are on grade level in math. Now more than ever, LAUSD must take bold action to help students recover and thrive.

In 2022, LAUSD released a Strategic Plan called [Ready for the World](#). It includes actions that the District and schools must take to close opportunity gaps and help ALL kids graduate, ready for the world-- to thrive in college, career, and life. The Strategic Plan represents a promise to LAUSD students, families, educators, and staff to achieve this goal.

Parents, caregivers, and families play a critical role in helping the Strategic Plan succeed. Families have the power to speak up, provide input, ask hard questions, and work with school leaders to provide a high-quality education for all students.

The Family Guide provides parents with a digestible and actionable tool to understand key pillars in the Strategic Plan and equips them to have powerful conversations with school and District leaders to ensure schools are meeting goals for students.

Pillars of the Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is organized around five pillars outlined below. Each pillar represents a critical area of focus. Within each pillar, there are four priorities that support the pillar, as well as measures of success and associated targets to gauge progress toward meeting goals.

While we encourage families to engage around all five pillars in the Strategic Plan, this guide only focuses on the **first three pillars** because they are more directly related to how parents and school leaders can work together to ensure the goals of the Strategic Plan are successful.

Pillar 1: Academic Excellence

High-Quality Instruction

Enriching Experiences

Eliminating Opportunity Gaps

College and Career Readiness

Pillar 2: Joy and Wellness

Welcoming Learning Environments

Whole-Child Well-Being

Strong Social-Emotional Skills

Outstanding Attendance

Pillar 3: Engagement and Collaboration

Strong Relationships

Accessible Information

Leading for Impact

Honoring Perspectives

Pillar 4: Operational Effectiveness

Data-Driven Decision-Making

Modernizing Infrastructure

Sustainable Budgeting

District of Choice

Pillar 5: Investing in Staff

Diverse Workforce

Professional Learning

Staff Wellness

High Performance Standards

District Goals

The LAUSD Board of Education approved a set of four powerful goals outlining the student outcomes we expect to see by 2026.

Goal 1:

College & Career

70%

70% of students in a graduating 9th-12th grade cohort will demonstrate college and career readiness with a "C" or better on the UC/CSU A-G approved courses by June 2026.

Goal 2:

Literacy

+30pts.

Move Grade 3 students, on average, 30 points closer to proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment English Language Arts/Literacy from 2022 to 2026.

Goal 3:

Numeracy

+40pts.

In order to improve Algebra I pass rates, move students, on average, 40 points closer to proficiency on Smarter Balanced Assessment Mathematics from 2022 to 2026 in Grades 3-5 and 6-8.

Goal 4:

Social-Emotional Wellness

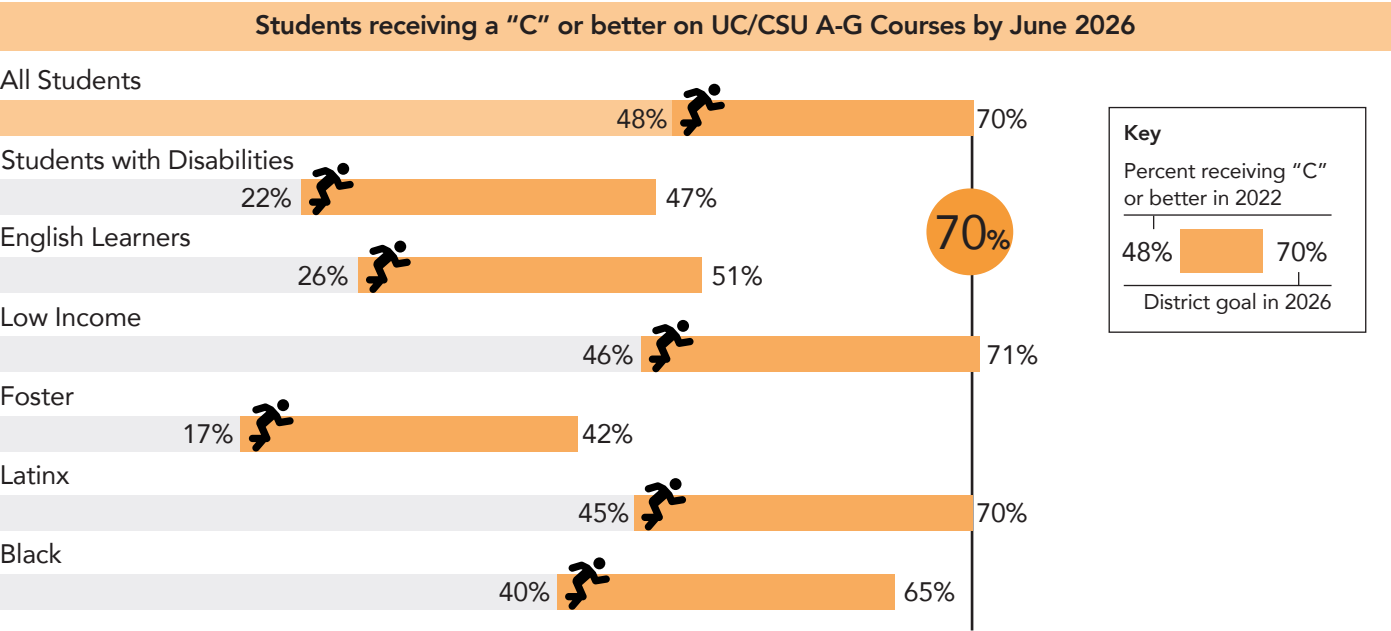
+8%

Students in elementary, middle, and high school will demonstrate growth of 8% in each of the social-emotional learning competencies of growth mindset, self-efficacy, self-management, and social awareness, by June 2026 as measured by the School Experience Survey.

Where LAUSD students are now & where we want them to be in 2026

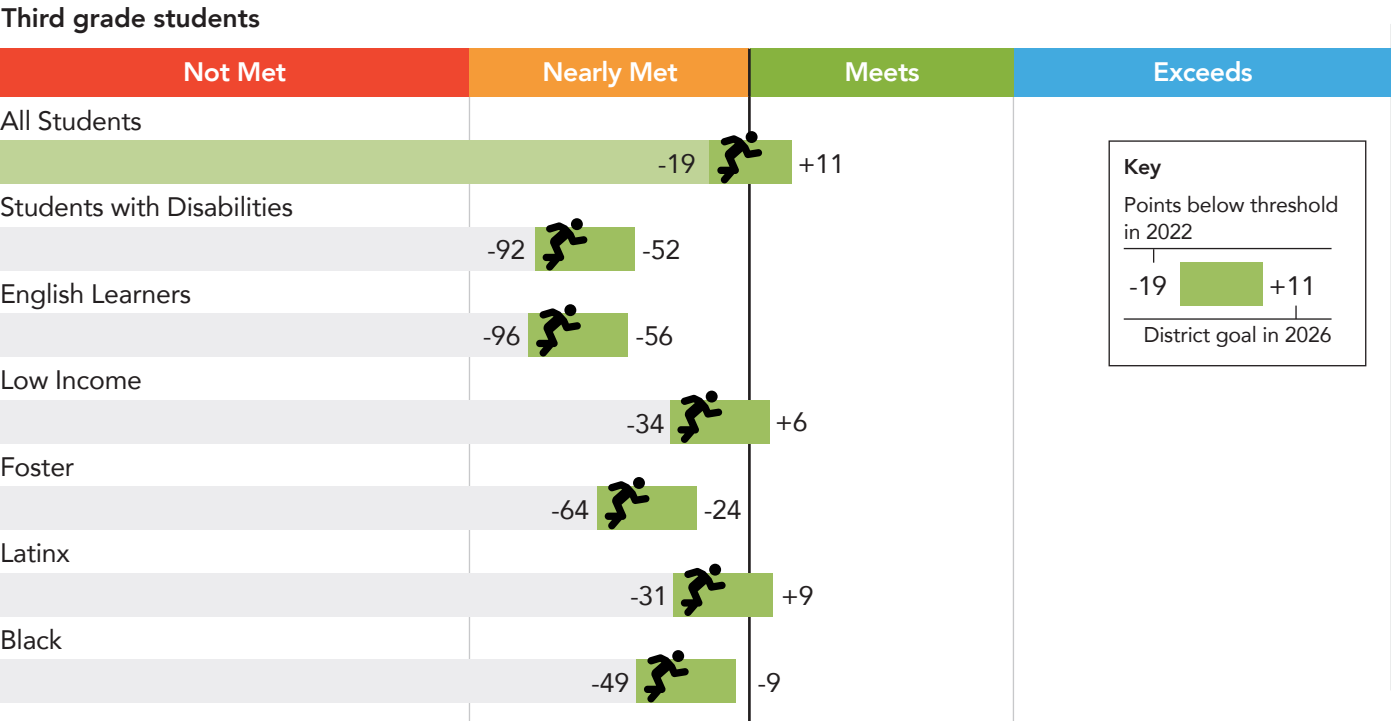
Goal 1: College & Career

The percentage of students in a graduating 9th-12th grade cohort demonstrating college and career readiness with a "C" or better on University of California/California State University A-G approved courses will increase to 70% by June 2026. Targeted student groups will demonstrate growth of 25% over this time period based on 2021-22 baseline data.



Goal 2: Literacy

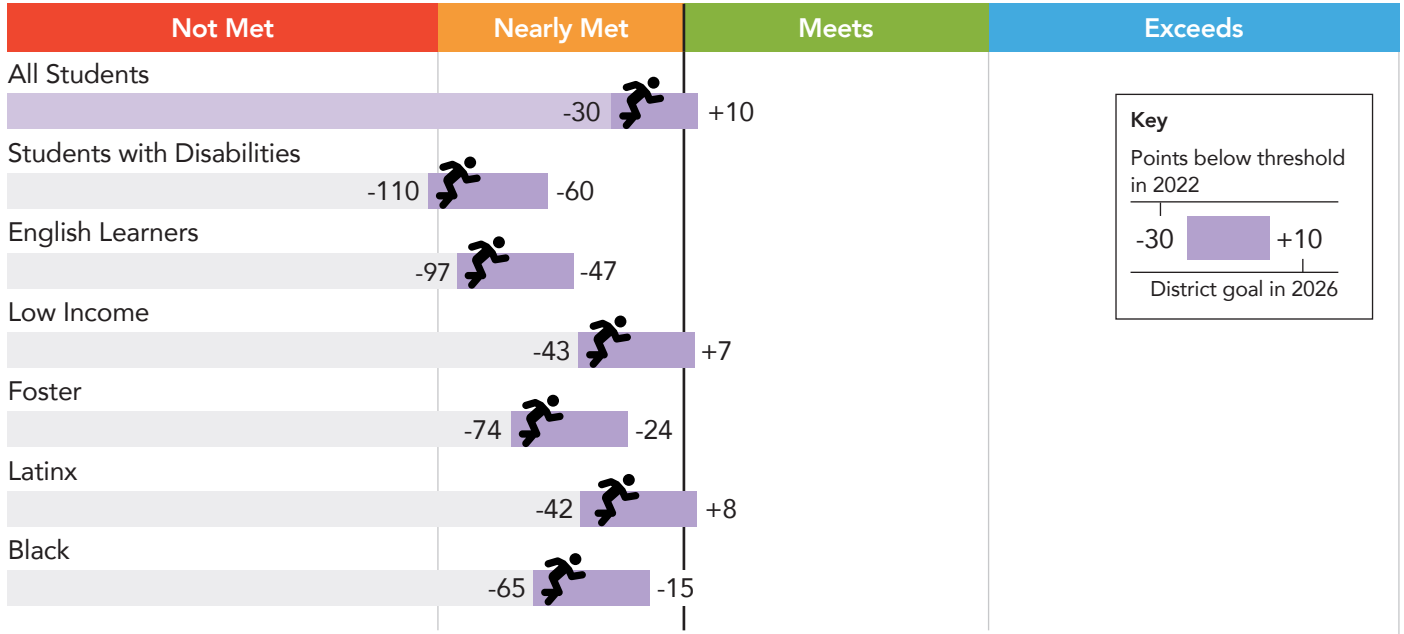
In order to build a strong foundation for literacy, move third-grade students, on average, 30 points closer to proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English Language Arts/Literacy from 2022 to 2026. Targeted student groups will move, on average, 40 points closer to proficiency over that time.



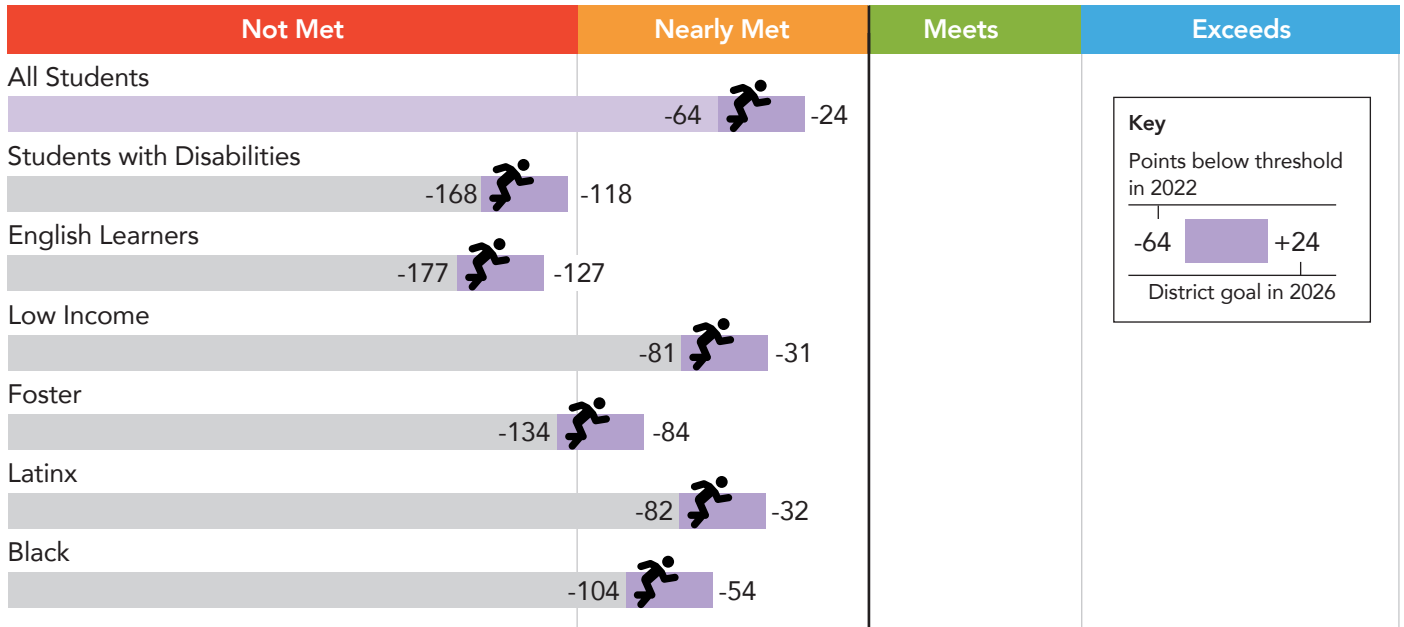
Goal 3: Numeracy

In order to improve Algebra I pass rates, move students, on average, 40 points closer to proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Mathematics from 2022 to 2026 in Grades 3-5 and 6-8. Targeted student groups will move, on average, 50 points closer to proficiency over this time.

Grades 3-5



Grades 6-8



GUIDE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN



Here is your guide to understanding and partnering with your school to ensure they are successful. It is organized by pillar. Under each pillar you will find four priorities. Under each priority, you will see what to look for to know it is being implemented at your school and questions you can ask. Most questions included are for school principals but there are a few for District staff.

PILLAR 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



A | High quality instruction

LAUSD schools will consistently implement high-quality instruction to improve student outcomes.

Q What to look for

Teachers deliver instruction that is high quality, rigorous, standards based, and culturally responsive.

My principal regularly observes classroom instruction and provides feedback to improve practice.

Teachers are supported with high-quality, ongoing professional development and coaching for effective teaching, learning, and leadership.

Newly hired teachers receive targeted professional development and coaching.

Data is being used regularly to guide instruction and personalize student learning.

? What to ask

Pro-tip:

Remember, these questions can be personalized. Ask questions that address the needs of your specific student (e.g., if you have an English learner, ask your principal how they are supporting English learners to reclassify).

- ☐ How do I know my child is on track academically? How do I know if my child needs additional support?
- ☐ How can we work together to support my student's academic progress and all students at this school?
- ☐ What does high-quality instruction look like at your school? What should I look for to know this is happening?
- ☐ What high-quality instructional materials are teachers using on a daily basis?
- ☐ What kind of ongoing support is provided to teachers to make sure they have what they need to provide structured literacy instruction?
- ☐ What is the school's focus for professional development this year (e.g., literacy)?
- ☐ (For elementary schools) Has my child's teacher participated in the Orton-Gillingham training or some other training that follows the Science of Reading?
- ☐ What foundational skills for reading would be beneficial for parents to help with at home?
- ☐ How does my child's school use data to deliver personalized instruction to support all students?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ☐ Help more students in grades 3-8 and 11 get to "Standard Met" or "Exceeded Standard" on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English and Math
- ☐ Increase the percentage of students in grades K-2 meeting early literacy benchmarks
- ☐ Increase the percentage of teachers certified in Equitable Grading and Instruction to over 50%
- ☐ Ensure 100% of schools are using the Informal Observation Tool to observe classroom instruction

B | Enriching experiences

LAUSD schools will deliver well-rounded, inspiring educational and enrichment experiences to instill and maintain a love of learning.

What to look for

Students have access to a wide array of courses and experiences that support a well-rounded education. For example: visual and performing arts, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics), ethnic studies, and outdoor education during and after school.

Students have opportunities to become multilingual through dual and world language programs.

Students at my child's school have access to gifted and talented programs.

Students that have historically not had access to gifted and talented programs (e.g., Black, Latinx, and low-income students) are being identified and prioritized.

Students have opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities, including student interest clubs, volunteerism, and civic engagement.

? What to ask

- ❑ What enrichment and educational opportunities does my school offer **during the school day**? For example, are there visual/performing arts programs or STEAM courses?
- ❑ What enrichment and educational opportunities does my child's school offer **after school**? For example, are there any nature-based experiences or arts programs?
- ❑ What dual immersion and world language programs are available in my community?
- ❑ How are students identified for gifted and talented programs?
- ❑ How is my child's school working to increase access to gifted and talented programs?
- ❑ What extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, athletics) are offered at my child's school?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ❑ Increase the percentage of students that report they are happy to be at their school
- ❑ Increase the percentage of students identified for gifted and talented programs from 12.5% to 14.8%
- ❑ Ensure at least 50% of graduating seniors receive the California Seal of Biliteracy
- ❑ Increase the number of students participating in arts and music programs
- ❑ Increase the number of partnerships with community-based arts organizations, performance venues, professional sporting events, and outdoor education experiences

C | Eliminating opportunity gaps

The District will eliminate opportunity gaps, advance anti-racist instructional practices, and personalize learning for all students.

Q What to look for

My child's school implements anti-racist and anti-bias practices, policies, and instructional materials.

My child's school offers high-dosage tutoring to students in need.¹

All students have access to summer school, especially students most in need.²

My child's school is acting upon early-warning indicators (e.g., literacy benchmarks, on track to graduate with A-G courses completed) to ensure all students remain on track.

(Middle and high schools) My child's school offers multiple opportunities for intervention and credit recovery during and outside of the regular school day.

My child's school provides an inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities including higher expectations for academic and social outcomes.

My child's school is implementing the Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP). To learn more about the Black Student Achievement Plan, visit <https://achieve.lausd.net/bsa>.

My child's school offers programs that support success for underrepresented groups.³

There are more universal preschool and transitional kindergarten programs in LAUSD.

1. High-dosage tutoring happens one-on-one or in small groups with a consistent tutor, and regular, frequent sessions (at least 2-3 times per week).

2. This includes English Learners, students with disabilities, students in foster care, students experiencing homelessness, and other historically underserved groups.

3. This includes Black, Latinx, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian, American Indian, and Native Alaskan students.

? What to ask

- ☐ How is my child's school training and preparing teachers and staff to be anti-racist and culturally responsive?
- ☐ Does my school offer high-dosage tutoring to all students that need or request it?
- ☐ Does my child's school offer summer school? If not offered at my child's school, what is the closest school offering summer school?
- ☐ What kind of high-quality and hands-on academic and enrichment activities will children have access to during summer school?
- ☐ (Middle and high schools) What opportunities for intervention and credit recovery does my child's school offer?
- ☐ What training does the school provide to help teachers support students with disabilities in the classroom?
- ☐ How are school staff working with my child with disabilities to increase their time with peers in the general education setting (aiming for 80% or more time)?
- ☐ How is my child's school implementing the Black Student Achievement Plan (BSAP)?
- ☐ How is my child's school closing close academic achievement gaps specifically for Black students?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ☐ Ensure 100% of all employees have completed implicit bias training
- ☐ (High schools only) Ensure 70% of all LAUSD high school students are "on track" to graduate, meeting all A-G requirements with grades of C or better
- ☐ Increase the English Learner reclassification rate across the District from 15.8% (2019-20) to 25% or higher
- ☐ At least 80% of students with disabilities are in the general education program at least 80% of the school day (an increase from 58.8% in 2020-21)

D | College and career readiness

LAUSD will champion multiple pathways for college and career readiness for all students.

What to look for

Beginning in elementary school, students and families learn about various college and career options. These conversations happen with every student and family.

Starting in middle school, every student has an Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP) that monitors their progress and increases academic outcomes and opportunities post graduation.

(High schools) Students have equitable access to rigorous college preparatory courses and are supported to successfully complete A-G courses with grades of C or better.

(High schools) More opportunities for career exploration, work-based learning, and employment (e.g., paid internships).

More opportunities to participate in career and technical education (CTE) and Linked Learning pathways.

(High schools) All students understand their options for college and receive support for planning, applying, and transitioning to college, including financial aid advising.

(High schools) More students get access to advanced learning options such as Advanced Placement and college courses.

? What to ask

- ❑ How is my child's school engaging students and families in learning about various college and career options?
- ❑ How can I ensure my English Learner student is reclassified in time so they can access the necessary courses in middle and high school in order to be on track to graduate college and career ready?
- ❑ What do I need to know, as a parent, to support my child's Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP)?
- ❑ What percentage of students at my child's high school are on track to complete their A-G courses with grades of C or better?
- ❑ What opportunities for career exploration are available at my child's school?
- ❑ (For middle and high schools) How is my child's school supporting students with planning, applying and transitioning to college? Is there a college counselor on campus that supports this?
- ❑ What do I need to know about planning for college (including financial aid) for my student?
- ❑ What percentage of students at my child's school are enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ❑ Ensure 93% of high school students graduate within four years
- ❑ Ensure 70% of high school students are "on track" to graduate, meeting all A-G requirements with grades of C or better
- ❑ Ensure 100% of middle and high school students have completed an Individualized Graduation Plan
- ❑ Ensure 27% of students complete the career technical education sequences
- ❑ Ensure 100% of graduating seniors complete a FAFSA/CADAA application
- ❑ Ensure 30% of high school students are enrolled in AP courses

PILLAR 2: JOY AND WELLNESS



A | Welcoming learning environments

LAUSD will design and sustain welcoming, safe, environmentally friendly, affirming, and inclusive learning environments.

Q What to look for

School staff know how to help students feel welcomed, heard, and supported.

School staff know how to support students around sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

There are safe and sustainable green spaces, outdoor learning environments, and shaded areas at my child's school.

There is "safe passage" to and from my child's school.

Classrooms and learning materials value and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of students.

Students participate in regular, inclusive celebrations and community events that recognize diverse cultures (e.g., Lunar New Year celebration).

Students have access to other safe learning and community spaces (e.g., libraries, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, etc.).

My child's school completes regular environmental health, safety, and emergency readiness assessments.

? What to ask

- ☐ What kind of training are staff at my child's school being offered to learn how to support students emotionally?
- ☐ What can I do as a parent to help build a supportive and welcoming environment at school?
- ☐ What trauma-informed practices are being used?
- ☐ What type of training is being offered to staff to support students around sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression?
- ☐ How is my child's school ensuring students feel supported in their sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression?
- ☐ What safe and sustainable green spaces or outdoor learning environments are accessible at my child's school?
- ☐ What shaded areas are available at my child's school?
- ☐ What is the school doing to ensure "safe passage" to and from school?
- ☐ How are the diverse backgrounds of students celebrated?
- ☐ How are students learning about other cultures?
- ☐ What other community spaces are available in my neighborhood?
- ☐ How is my child's school preparing for emergencies?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ☐ Increase the percentage of students that feel safe at school from 72% to 82%
- ☐ Increase the percentage of students reporting that they feel safe in the neighborhood around their schools
- ☐ Increase the number of schools and employees trained on topics of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression

B | Whole-child well-being

LAUSD will promote whole-child well-being through integrated health, nutrition, and wellness services.

What to look for

My child's school has implemented an integrated wellness policy.

There is a team of support personnel in my community that provides services that promote student wellness (e.g., family navigators).

The District leverages community schools, wellness centers, and partnerships to promote safe, welcoming, and resource-rich environments for families.

There are fresher, healthier, and more appealing nutrition options informed by family and student feedback.

There are ongoing mental and physical health services for students and families at my child's school and through wellness centers and telehealth programs.

There are more opportunities for athletics, physical education, and events that promote an active lifestyle.

My child's school has conducted an inventory of whole child resources in the community to increase access to needed services.

? What to ask

- ☐ Can you tell me more about what is included in the wellness policy at my child's school?
- ☐ Who is providing services that promote student wellness in my community? How can I access the services offered?
- ☐ What organizations are my school partnering with to promote safe, welcoming, and resource-rich environments for students and families?
- ☐ How can I access these resources?
- ☐ How can I or my student share feedback to inform nutrition options at my child's school?
- ☐ What mental and physical health services do students and families have access to at my child's school?
- ☐ What athletic or physical fitness opportunities are available at my child's school?
- ☐ How can I access whole child resources to support my child?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ☐ Exceed 70% positive response rate on biannual surveys regarding school meals
- ☐ Increase access to whole child wellness interventions
- ☐ Increase the number of mental health consultations for staff and parents
- ☐ Increase the number of students served through mental health services
- ☐ Increase Medi-Cal enrollment for students and families in communities with greatest needs

C | Strong social-emotional skills

LAUSD will cultivate and model strong social-emotional skills.

What to look for

School staff are provided with professional development opportunities to help them support students' social and emotional needs.

Social emotional learning is integrated into instruction.

There are more resources to build the capacity of families and staff to support students.

My child's school uses practices that support positive individual wellness and models positive social-emotional behaviors for students.

My child's school builds the capacity of all adults on campus on the use of [Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and Restorative Practices](#) to promote a positive culture.

? What to ask

- ❑ How is social-emotional learning integrated into instruction?
- ❑ How does social-emotional learning happen in and out of the classroom (e.g., during recess and lunch)?
- ❑ How are staff being prepared to support students in their social-emotional learning?
- ❑ What can I do as a parent to support my student's social-emotional development?
- ❑ What resources does my child's school offer to build the capacity of families to support students' social-emotional needs?
- ❑ How is the school ensuring Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and Restorative Practices are implemented effectively?
- ❑ What tools are available for parents to support restorative practices at home?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ❑ Increase the percentage of students across age groups demonstrating growth in social-emotional learning competencies of growth mindset, self-efficacy, self-management, and social awareness by 8%
- ❑ Reduce the single student suspension rate to 0.15% from 0.4%

D | Outstanding attendance

LAUSD will ensure outstanding attendance to support consistent in-class learning.

What to look for

My child's school provides regular mentorship and community-building opportunities.

My child's school identifies root causes for absences and offers comprehensive child welfare and attendance services to students, including tiered and differentiated prevention and intervention supports.

My child's school incentivizes regular attendance through recognition events, attendance "challenges," and spirit days.

The District leverages school teams to conduct personalized, daily outreach to families of students with low attendance.

My child's school collaborates with organizations promoting attendance and re-engagement efforts to increase coordination, consultation, and referrals.

? What to ask

- ❑ What mentorship or community-building opportunities are available for my child?
- ❑ How is the school building the capacity of families to support attendance?
- ❑ Does the school have any programs to incentivize and reward regular attendance?
- ❑ How is my child's school reaching out to families of students with low attendance?
- ❑ What organizations does my child's school collaborate with to promote regular attendance and re-engagement?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ❑ Decrease the percentage of chronically absent students
 - Grades K-5: decrease from 13.6% to 12.8%
 - Grades 6-8: decrease from 12.4% to 11.6%
 - Grades 9-12: decrease from 22.3% to 21.5%

PILLAR 3: ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION



A | Strong relationships

LAUSD will strengthen relationships between families, students, and their schools to improve student success.

Q What to look for

My child's school has a group of engaged volunteers and parent leaders.

My child's school hosts regular school community events that engage family and staff.

All families have downloaded the LAUSD app and are connected to the Parent Portal.

There are opportunities for parents to engage in the school budget development process.

Teachers participate in training to learn how to build strong relationships with families.

There are more [community schools](#) in LAUSD.

My school uses the LAUSD Family Academy in which families gain skills, information, and networking opportunities.

This pillar includes two priorities, Leading for Impact and Honoring Perspectives, that are not included in this Family Guide because the goals and strategies set within those priorities are held by District leadership rather than at the school level. To learn more about those two priorities, read the [LAUSD 2022-26 Strategic Plan](#).

? What to ask

- ☐ How can I get involved at my child's school?
- ☐ What are the different school-level committees that involve parents at our school and how do I sign up to be a committee member?
- ☐ How is my child's school leveraging parent voice and increasing engagement?
- ☐ What community events are happening at our school?
- ☐ How is my child's school using different methods of communication to engage families?
- ☐ How can I get set-up with a LAUSD Parent Portal account?
- ☐ How are parents' voices taken into consideration during the school budget development process?
- ☐ How do you engage parents beyond those involved in the school site council in developing the school budget?
- ☐ How do staff at this school build relationships with families to better support students?
- ☐ How can I participate in the Family Academy?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ☐ Increase the percentage of parents reporting they feel welcome to participate at their school from 86% to 94%
- ☐ Increase the percentage of students and parents/guardians linked on Parent Portal by 4% annually
- ☐ Host annual school goals and budget consultation processes at 100% of schools
- ☐ Increase the number of schools with employees completing the Family Empowerment micro-credential
- ☐ Average at least 300 participants on Family Academy course catalog webinars

B | Accessible information

LAUSD will provide clear, consistent, and accessible information to the community.

What to look for

Communication from my school is improved and streamlined to increase community access to news and information.

All families are connected to the internet and have training.

The District increases collaboration with media partners to share positive and uplifting stories about LAUSD.

My child's school receives training on how to promote enrollment at their school.

The District and my child's school communicates with families in multiple languages and modes to best meet their needs.

? What to ask

- ❑ What communication systems (e.g., social media, newsletters, email, phone calls) does the school have in place for communicating with families?
- ❑ If a parent has a question, what is the best way to get in contact with the principal or school for assistance?
- ❑ How can families receive training to access technology necessary to support their child's learning?
- ❑ How is my child's school celebrating what is happening to increase enrollment?
- ❑ How are staff at my child's school receiving District updates and important information?
- ❑ What are the primary languages for our school community?

✓ How will we know we were successful?

What are our school's goals that meet the Strategic Plan goals for this priority?

- ❑ Increase the percentage of parents reporting on the School Experience Survey their school provides them with information they can understand from 91% to 96%
- ❑ Meet the needs of 100% of students who request a computing device, connectivity, and/or technical support
- ❑ Provide 100% of schools with resources, including training and toolkits, to promote local programs and meaningful stories
- ❑ Communicate timely and relevant District information to 100% of employees
- ❑ Increase outreach of messages in languages other than English and Spanish



How to organize your school

The Innovate organizing model stems from a long history of community organizing across the country. Our model empowers communities to gather around values and interests, learn about problems and opportunities, and act in partnership with like-minded leaders to bring about more opportunities for students.

Innovate believes that the LAUSD 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and its bold goals and pillars provide you, as a caregiver and/or a community member at LAUSD, with a roadmap from which to organize and move others collectively in order to bring about more opportunities at your school.

We have used our model of organizing to grow leadership across the state and country, resulting in many wins for kids. We hope the following four steps will help you and your school leader reach the success that your children deserve.

1 | Foster community

Intentional one-on-one conversations with other parents, your children's teachers, principal and other staff about the Strategic Plan and what its implementation can look like for your school community.

"Power is in the relationship"

Questions for parents: In the last week, how many one-on-one conversations have I had in my school about progress towards Strategic Plan goals? How many parents inside and outside of my child's class have I engaged with one-on-one or in small groups to talk about the Strategic Plan, its pillars, and how my child's class and school are moving towards growth?

How am I fostering relationships and community at my child's school?

2 | Foster joyful learning

Hold group meetings at your school with potential community partners that can help bring about new initiatives so students can reach Strategic Plan goals. For example, host a group meeting with the science museum to ask about potential collaboration with your school.

"Information is power"

Questions for parents: In the last month, how many conversations have I had with my teacher or principal to share my ideas for new initiatives, resources, and partnerships that can help move my school forward in reaching goals of the Strategic Plan? In the last month, how many times have I attended a meeting at my school where I have learned something connected to the Strategic Plan?

How am I fostering learning for other parents at my child's school?

3 | Foster community action

Implement plans and actual programs. Act with your principal and community to achieve real commitments with timelines and plans from the District and other civic leaders. For example, secure city funds for a new park for my school neighborhood; obtain more funding for high-impact tutoring at my school; or help my principal secure additional funding to send more teachers to a popular reading professional development opportunity.

“Action is in the reaction”

Questions for parents: In the next six months, what new resource or change in policy (aligned to the Strategic Plan) do I want to work on securing with my school leader and community? What are the specifics of the “win” we want? How will we know we achieved this new change? How can I use this family guide to set up meetings that will get us to the specific “win” we need for our kids?

How am I and other parents at my school fostering positive action towards more opportunity for our kids?

4 | Foster reflection

Reflect on and celebrate your growth and the school’s growth when it comes to Strategic Plan goals and pillars.

“People can only grow through their own experience”

Questions for parents: In the next six months, how will I and other parents celebrate the “bright lights” at my school (teachers, principal, etc.)? In the next six months, how will I celebrate and reflect on my own journey of leadership? How will I celebrate and reflect on the journey of leadership of my fellow parents?

How am I fostering reflection on how much my school has grown and how much I have grown as a parent and as a leader in the last couple of months?

It goes without saying that schools are powerful places where the seeds of destiny are cultivated for hundreds and thousands of neighborhood kids. We celebrate the way LAUSD’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan honors this serious responsibility. The right leadership makes all the difference between a good school and an empowered and growth-focused school.

Innovate believes that caregivers, parents, and community members can be positive leaders and catalysts towards the collective genius that all children at LAUSD and beyond deserve. This can be achieved by embracing and moving forward on the four organizing steps outlined above.

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About the Los Angeles Unified School District

Los Angeles Unified School District enrolls more than 563,083 students in early education, K-12 and adult education programs. The District has over 1,400 schools and centers across 710 square miles.

LAUSD's mission as set forth in the 2022-26 Strategic Plan is to realize excellence for all students by providing the unique, rigorous, and culturally relevant education that each and every student deserves.

The vision is to become the premier public school district by eliminating educational inequities to graduate ALL students ready for the world – to thrive in college, career, and life.

About Innovate Public Schools

Innovate Public Schools is a nonprofit organization that builds the power and capacity of parents and families to organize, advocate, and demand high quality schools for their children. We believe the education system was not designed to serve all children, and that the biggest barrier to all children having access to an excellent school is a lack of political will to improve the system. We believe the voices and experiences of parents, families, and students should be elevated and centered in decisions about education. Innovate partnered with LAUSD to create this guide, which is one way to help families achieve our mission.



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